

Message Text

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40

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3062

INFO AMCONSUL MADRAS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CE, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN DEVELOPMENTS: GOVERNMENT UNIONS SUPPORT

MRS GANDHI

REF: COLOMBO 2095, COLOMBO 1965

1. ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE SENT PERSONAL MESSAGE SUPPORTING INDIRA GANDHI IN WAKE OF ALLAHABAD COURT DECISION (COLOMBO 1965), GSL HAS MAINTAINED SILENCE RE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S SUBSEQUENT USE OF EMERGENCY REGULATIONS. HOWEVER, JOINT COUNCIL OF TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION (JCTUO), RULING UNITED FRONT COALITION'S LABOR ARM, ISSUED STATEMENT JULY 11 STRONGLY SUPPORTING MRS GANDHI'S RESPONSE TO "THREAT OF RIGHT WING REACTIONARY FORCES". BLAMED "ALL THE FORCES OF FOREIGN IMPERIALISM AND THE CIA" FOR INDIA'S CURRENT ILLS, AND THOUGHT "PARALLEL TO RECENT EVENTS IN SRI LANKA ONLY TOO CLEAR".

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2. ON SAME DATE, CEYLON FEDERATION OF TRADE

UNIONS, WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY COMMUNIST PARTY, MOSCOW-WING AND IS ALSO MEMBER OF JCTUO, ISSUED SEPARATE STATEMENT CRITICIZING PRC'S ATTITUDE TOWARD EVENTS IN INDIA. STATEMENT, AFTER CHIDING PRC FOR RAISING CRITICAL VOICE AGAINST MRS GANDHI'S GOVERNMENT, ACCUSED CHINESE OF RENDERING FULL SUPPORT TO US MILITARY AND NAVAL PRESENCE IN SOUTH ASIA AND WARNED THAT REACTIONARY FORCES SUPPORTED BY CIA WOULD AGAIN RAISE THEIR HEADS AGAINST INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. ALTHOUGH INDIAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE RECEIVED HEAVY AND FAIRLY BALANCED PRESS PLAY, SPECULATION AS TO LONG-TERM IMPACT ON SRI LANKA REMAINS OPEN-ENDED. OFFICIAL ATTENTION IS FOCUSED IN PART ON POSSIBLE IMPACT OF TAMIL NADU RESISTANCE TO PM GANDHI'S EMERGENCY MEASURES, AND IN PART ON DESIRE TO MAINTAIN GOOD PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS FORGED IN RECENT YEARS BY TWO PRIME MINISTERS.
VAN HOLLEN

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